

The point of it is that this is a legislative matter and there is really no reason whatsoever to require it in the Constitution, and I object to it. This is my first objection and the one that has the least force; it is very expensive and cumbersome, it does not really provide you with much of anything.

Second, it provides a very serious legal problem, another roadblock, testing of the legislature, and third, the general constitutional principle is something that you just should not put in a constitution. It is not in the federal Constitution and I doubt it is in any other state constitution, and we are just doing a little social experimenting here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions of the sponsor of the amendment?

Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Delegate James, do you have any idea of the cost to the State of Maryland which we are mandatorily putting on them by requiring all debates to be recorded and all journals of committees, et cetera, and individual recorded votes to be entered?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: Based upon the experience of this Convention, it will be in the neighborhood of a hundred thousand a year. Of course, I apologize for mentioning money here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions; Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: Mr. Chairman, apropos of that last question that was asked the sponsor of this amendment, I wonder if he could enlighten the Committee of the Whole as to what percentage of the state budget is allocated to legislative proceedings at the present time?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: I do not know really about percentage. I have not really made a calculation. It costs about three million dollars a year to operate the legislature.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: Would the delegate be surprised if I told him it was one percent?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: No, I would not be surprised at that. I would say this, that the legislative branch of government is the

least expensive branch of the government. It costs the citizens of Maryland about 75 cents apiece to support the legislature.

However, I would say that this does not justify the wasteful expenditure of public funds. I suppose that is my puritan ethics.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: I wonder if the delegate would be at least liberal enough to let it cost the citizens 76 cents?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: I will not spend a cent which is not justified.

(Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: A question directed to Delegate James.

THE CHAIRMAN: State the question.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Delegate James, in addition to being a distinguished former President of the Senate and a distinguished attorney, probably you could answer me this constitutional question.

If the legislature did not keep this daily journal and keep this transcript of all the debates and the legislature in its wisdom figured that rather than put another tax bill on the people of the state of Maryland, it would save the money and not publish the transcript, could the Court of Appeals or any other court issue a mandatory injunction and compel the legislature to act in this respect?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: I really do not know. After what has happened in recent years anything can happen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Singer. do you have a question of Delegate James?

DELEGATE SINGER: I do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Singer.

DELEGATE SINGER: Are not the mechanical problems you have mentioned in reference to keeping a transcript very similar to those encountered by state and federal courts throughout the country in civil and criminal trials, and are solved there?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: I would think that they would be somewhat similar. How-